

to the underlying bill to ensure there is an adequate supply of water from reservoirs or other surface waters to help fight wildfires); and

Nay on Roll Call vote 352 (passage of H.R. 23, the GROW Act).

THANKING VICKIE PLUNKETT FOR  
TWENTY-THREE YEARS OF  
SERVICE TO THE UNITED  
STATES CONGRESS

### HON. MADELINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 13, 2017*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Vickie Plunkett for her over twenty years of service in the United States House of Representatives. As we consider the Fiscal Year 2018 National Defense Authorization bill in the House Armed Services Committee, for the tenth and final time with Vickie as a Professional Staff Member on the Committee, I would like to take a moment to reflect on her decades of service to this body, and our nation.

Vickie has served as the lead staffer for the Readiness Subcommittee, which oversees the largest account in the Department of Defense, Operations and Maintenance, to include military operations, readiness, and training issues, funding, and programs. In this capacity, she has fought to ensure that our men and women in uniform are trained, ready, and equipped to carry out missions we ask of them, while ensuring that we are acting as responsible stewards of the taxpayer dollar. As the Ranking Member of the Readiness Subcommittee, I have deeply valued Vickie's counsel and advice, as well as her candid perspectives.

Vickie joined the House Armed Services Committee in 2007 after more than a decade of working on defense issues in Congress. From 1989 to 2002, she served as the Deputy Chief of Staff and Military Legislative Assistant to my friend and the former Chairman of the Readiness Subcommittee, Solomon Ortiz, as well as former Congressman Glen Browder, another member of the Subcommittee. Prior to relocating to Washington D.C., Vickie honed her critical thinking and journalistic skills as a publisher, editor, reporter, and photographer for daily and weekly newspapers in Alabama and Georgia. Her editorial expertise and deliberative approach served her and the Committee well not only as we crafted the annual defense authorization bill, but also through countless hearings, markups, and meetings. Her efforts have been instrumental to enacting good public policies for our military and our servicemembers and their families are better equipped, trained, and resourced because of them.

Mr. Speaker, Vickie's departure from the House Armed Services Committee will leave us without the decades of experience and wisdom that she brought to each and every challenge we encountered. I am proud of the work she did, as well as the intelligent, thoughtful manner in which she approached it. On a personal level, Vickie has been a tremendous friend of Guam and the men and women who serve on our island. So on behalf of my constituents and the people of Guam, I extend her my sincere un dangkulo na si Yu'os ma'ase

(deepest gratitude). I wish her, her husband David, and their families well as they enter the next chapter in their lives.

### KHANG TRAN

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 13, 2017*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Khang Tran for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Khang Tran is a student at Oberon Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Khang Tran is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Khang Tran for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

### HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL (LTC) ROBERT B. NEWELL, SR.

### HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 13, 2017*

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Robert B. Newell, Sr., for the eleven years of his life that he dedicated to the Army as a surgeon, and the countless years he dedicated as a civilian to saving the lives of others.

After growing up in Buffalo, NY, LTC Newell attended Colgate University, leaving for financial reasons before he could achieve a full degree. However, this did not prevent him from earning his M.D. at the University of Buffalo Medical School. Colgate University would later issue LTC Newell a degree based on his medical school credits at the request of his son, although LTC Newell passed away shortly before hearing this news.

His service to our country started shortly after his graduation from medical school, when LTC Newell joined the army as a trauma surgeon during World War II. He saved the lives of many wounded allied soldiers in England, France and Germany until after the end of the war in 1946.

LTC Newell re-enlisted in the Army in 1948 and served as a Major and head of the Department of Surgery at Fort Lee. He was soon advanced in rank to Lieutenant Colonel and dispatched to Korea, where he served as commanding officer of the 2nd Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) Unit, the 8225th. LTC Newell received the Bronze Star Medal for his heroic achievements and service in combat zone in Korea as part of the MASH Unit. He gave soldiers the immediate and encompassing care that saved many lives

throughout his years of service. He retired from duty in 1953.

Even after his time in the Army, LTC Newell continued to serve the community and save lives as a surgeon and as a leader. Over his long career, in addition to his surgical practice, he also served as the president of medical staffs at three different Illinois hospitals, and as head of the High Point Emergency room in North Carolina.

I am here today to honor LTC Newell after his countless years of service to both the U.S. Army and to injured civilians. His service and commitment to saving lives is commendable, and he is well deserving of this honor. His son, five grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren still remember the great deeds and legacy of their beloved father and "Grandfather Beach," as well as the positive influence he had on their lives. As his grandson Danny writes, Lt. Col. Newell "was the epitome of Brokaw's Greatest Generation."

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 13, 2017*

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for Roll Call vote 349 on Wednesday, July 12, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call vote 349.

### RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNUAL FRANKLIN COUNTY FAIR

### HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 13, 2017*

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of Ohio's 15th Congressional District to recognize the 100th Annual Franklin County Fair. Since 1917, the Franklin County Agricultural Society has given our Central Ohio community countless memories of summertime fun had at the County Fair.

Central Ohio has a rich agricultural heritage, and that heritage is on full display at the Franklin County Fair. Its craft marketplace allows patrons to purchase the exquisite and well-made products of local vendors, and its Junior Fair provides young student farmers with the chance to showcase their hard work and skill in agriculture.

But most importantly, the County Fair provides friends and families from Obetz to Hilliard time to reconnect with one another. They can forget their hectic lives and enjoy traditions that have been appreciated by generations for 100 years.

I am grateful to the Franklin County Agricultural Society and the Franklin County Fair Board for ensuring the success of this year's event, and I am proud to recognize all who have been a part of its storied history.